

## Greetings

As a creator of original content, I wholly and personally understand the worry of having your intellectual property stolen. I also understand that devices that have hit the consumer market prior to this proposed digital flag can act as mediums for theft of said property. With that on record, let me go a step further and say that as an independent artist, I fear that the implications of the Digital Broadcast Copy Protection may end up having a negative impact on my ability to distribute my media.

If, in the past, private firms had the power to approve and disapprove of innovation (something this act will give them) such items such as recordable CD's and DVD's may not have come to pass. These are devices which I find tremendously helpful in allowing others to view my creative works. Songs I write and record can be listened to on almost any CD player by those goodly enough to give my work a sample and now that I'm starting to explore some video production the recordable DVD's will serve the same purpose.

Speaking of CD's, one reason they were adopted by the record labels is because they were thought to be copy proof. DVD's also were thought to have sufficient copy protection. With the passage of time, both notions have been proven false. Going back further in time the movie studios feared the VCR and today one of the greatest sources of revenue for the studios are video tapes and DVD's.

By risking the advancement of innovation this act risks my constitutional freedom of speech. True I will be able to say what I want still but if I don't have methods available to me for distributing my speech I may as well be screaming in an empty field. It is also true that my current sphere of influence is relatively small, still, I cannot sit idly by and watch my potential for the future be risked. As an independent I cannot afford to have professional recording done. At least with my home systems my messages can get made and heard.

I cannot speak for all artists but for this one, recordable media and peer to peer networks are excellent opportunities for getting my creations out there because I don't have a name or an inexhaustible advertising budget. They afford me with the opportunity to perhaps one day make a name for myself. So please, when it comes time to make the decision consider myself and those like me. All I want to do is get my words out into the world. And I realize these technologies can and are being used for illegal uses but there has to be a better way to deal with the violators of the law. Don't give such sweeping power to a body who is out only to protect their self-interests instead of what the people want and need.

Thank you for your time and consideration

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